



Get in shape  
this year!

PAGE 7



Rangel stays

PAGE 9



Chess team in  
Final 4

PAGE 13

# THE COLLEGIAN

Volume 62

Issue 17

www.utbcollegian.com

Monday

February 1, 2010

## Senate down to 4

By Rene Cardona Jr.  
*Staff Writer*

The Student Government Association is down two more members after freshman senators Joshua Law and Noe Garza resigned, leaving a three-member turnout to pass last week's resolutions.

The SGA now consists of Vice President of Administration David Polin, Vice President of Public Relations Nathaniel Garcia and Freshman Senators Hugo Teran and David Marks. However, Marks' decision to continue has not been confirmed.

"Senator Marks is MIA," Polin said. "I called him before the meeting and wasn't able to get a hold of him, but I'll reach out to him and see what his intentions are."

During his officer report, Polin briefed the senate on a recent administrative decision to convert a student parking lot to a faculty one.

"As far as I understand it, at this moment it was an administrative decision and not brought to the institutional Parking Committee, which I sit on," he said. "I'm not sure if the institutional Parking Committee is the sole decision-maker when it comes to parking issues, so we're trying to get to the bottom of that. I'm going to figure that out this following week."

Resolution 22, the allocation of \$90 to provide three \$30 pens to the C-SPAN representatives who visited the UTB/TSC campus Friday, was the first resolution to be passed by the whittled-down senate. President Ruby de la Fuente gave the pens to the representatives who presented information on government processes and importance of civic engagement.

Graduate student and SGA clerk Rosalinda Rangel sponsored Resolution 23, which allocates \$500 for advertising "Project 100%," described by the SGA document as an

• See 'SGA,' Page 12

## Symposium tackles English proficiency

By Cynthia Hernandez  
*Staff Writer*

A symposium Thursday was filled with faculty, staff and students who were all on the same page--students are not at the level they should be in English.

John Cook, an associate professor in the Communication Department, was spurred to hold the symposium after he observed an unusual conversation taking place among several students during one of his lectures last semester. Although he thought of it as a sign of disrespect, he discovered the real reason behind the excessive speaking.

"I found out, as the semester went along, that there were several students in there who had such a lack of English skills that their friends were translating and interpreting for them what was being talked about in class," Cook told the group gathered in the Gorgas Hall boardroom. "I would have students say to me, 'You have to slow down,' and I sympathized because when I speak to my Spanish-speaking girlfriend, I have to say to her, 'Baby, *despacito por favor*.'"

Faculty members who attended the seminar were focused on getting to the root of the issue and possibly offer solutions to eliminate or improve students' writing and communication proficiencies.

Lyon Rathbun, an associate professor in the English Department, addressed the group and elaborated on a series he was conducting to shape professors into incorporating more writing to their courses.

"It has to be consistent writing so that students expect writing to take place in all of the courses," Rathbun said. "Right now, many students associate writing with English courses and they go into criminal justice and they wonder why they're being asked to write in criminal justice."

UTB/TSC has many services available to students struggling with their courses, including the Learning Enrichment Center. One of the reasons for students' language barriers may be the lack of student involvement with the services.

• See 'Symposium,' Page 14

## 'Sunday Morning' on Tuesday night



LUCIANA MORALES/COLLEGIAN

Sophomore music education major Freddy de la Garza (foreground) and sophomore biology major Ian Sloan perform the opening act for Noche Bohemia, held Tuesday in the Education and Business Complex courtyard. Sloan first performed a solo act of Maroon 5's "Sunday Morning," and was followed by a duo with Garza of "Remembering Sunday" by All Time Low. Sergio Martinez, director of Student Life, announced that the next Noche Bohemia will be held next month on the Student Union veranda.

### The Collegian Online Poll

Should SGA be allowed  
to continue with four  
members?

Tell us what  
you think!  
Go to:

www.utbcollegian.com



THE COLLEGIAN

The Collegian is the multimedia student newspaper serving the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. The newspaper is widely distributed on campus and is an award-winning member of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

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The University of Texas at  
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Briefs

Microsoft workshops

Free workshops on **Microsoft 2007** are available to students, faculty and staff. Training is conducted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday in room 112 (Mini-Mead Lab) of the **Arnulfo L. Oliveira Library**. For more information, contact **Damaris Gutierrez** or **Claudia Rodriguez** at 882-7442.

Budget planning

Juggling expenses? Create a financial survival plan for college by visiting a **Scorpion financial mentor** for help on how to plan for tuition and fee payments, create a personalized budget and much more from 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays in Student Union 2.10. No appointment is necessary. For more information, contact the **Office of Student Life** at 882-7035 or send an e-mail to lamp@utb.edu.

SPI Lecture Series

**Antonio Zavaleta**, special assistant to the UTB/TSC provost, will present a lecture titled **“Curanderismo and the Role of Culture Competency”** from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Club Padre, 5800 Padre Blvd. on South Padre Island. Tickets are \$2 and may be purchased at the South Padre Island Visitors Center or Club Padre. For more information, call 761-2582.

Network outages

Network outages are scheduled at midnight Tuesday and Wednesday due to maintenance

onequipment located in Harlingen and McAllen. Outages each night are expected to be about 30 minutes. This is expected to affect UTB/TSC. If you have any questions, contact the **Help Desk** at helpdesk@utb.edu or 882-HELP (882-4357).

FASFA workshop

The **Financial Assistance Office** will conduct a workshop to assist students in filling out the 2010-2011 **Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA**, income tax return electronically and answer general questions. The workshop will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday in Tandy Hall 213. For more information, call the **Financial Assistance Office** at 882-8277.

Who'sWho nominations

The **Dean of Students Office** is accepting nominations for the **2009-2010 Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges and Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges**. The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. Friday. For more information, call **Coordinator for Student Judicial Affairs David Marquez** at 882-5141.

HOSA Conference

The **Brownsville Independent School District Area 7 Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Conference** will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the central plaza of the International Technology, Education and Commerce Center,

located at 300 Mexico Blvd. For more information, call 882-4153.

Tax return assistance

The **2010 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance** program will offer free income tax return preparation to people who cannot afford a paid professional to do their income taxes. The assistance will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in room F9 of the International Technology, Education and Commerce Center, located at 300 Mexico Blvd. For more information, call 882-4153.

Patron of the Arts

Baritone **Daniel Hunter-Holly** and clarinetist **Jonathan Guist** will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday in the SET-B Lecture Hall. Admission is \$5. For more information, call the **Patron of the Arts** office at 882-7025.

Flutist **Cristina Ballatori** will perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 8 in the SET-B Lecture Hall. Admission is \$5. For more information, call the **Patron of the Arts** Office at 882-7025.

‘Night of Strings’

UTB/TSC’s **“A Night of Strings,”** a scholarship benefit concert, will take place at 7 p.m. Feb. 15 at the **Arts Center**. The concert will feature guitar, violin and cello performances by UT System Chancellor **Francisco Cigarroa**, UTB/TSC students and faculty and youth from the region. Tickets are \$50 each and may be purchased by calling 882-4332 or via online at www.utb.edu/events.

AAUW meeting

The next meeting of the **American Association of University Women** will be at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at A Catered Affair, 301 Jackson St. in Harlingen. The focus of the meeting will be **women’s health care issues**. The cost of lunch will be \$16. For more information, call **Margaret Adams** at 412-3741.

Research Symposium

The **12th annual UTB/TSC Research Symposium** is accepting abstracts from faculty, students and staff interested in presenting their work. Presentations are welcomed in any area involved in scholarly work or research. **The deadline to submit an application online is March 1**. For more information, visit: http://blue.utb.edu/research.

Battle of the Bands

The **Campus Activities Board** and **Office of Student Life** are seeking entries for the **“Battle of the Bands,”** which will take place March 10 on the Student Union lawn. For more information, call the **Student Life Office** at 882-5138.

--Compiled by Cleiri Quezada

If you would like your organization or department news published in The Collegian’s Briefs section, call Cleiri Quezada at 882-5143 or send her an e-mail at collegian@utb.edu.

Scholarships

The **USA Funds Access to Education Scholarship** awards up to \$1 million to students with economic need. Applicants must be high school seniors, incoming college, currently enrolled college or professional degree students with a household income of \$35,000 or less. Priority consideration will be given to ethnic-minority students or students with a documented physical disability. **The deadline to apply is Feb. 15**. Application and eligibility criteria are available online at: http://www.usafunds.org/planning/access\_to\_education\_scholarship/index.htm.

**UTB/TSC’s General Scholarships** are now available to current and future students. These scholarships and their specific requirements are listed

on the 2010-2011 Scholarship Guide. Students interested in applying must complete the online “UTB/TSC General Scholarship Application.” **The deadline to apply is March 1**. The application and guide are available at http://www.utb.edu/em/fa/Pages/FAScholarshipsLatest.aspx.

The **American Chemical Society Scholars Program** is available to African American, Hispanic/Latino or American Indian students who are enrolled full time at a high school or accredited college, university or community college and planning a career in the chemical sciences. Applicants must demonstrate high academic achievement in chemistry or science with a 3.0 grade-point average. Students intending to enter pre-med programs or pursuing a degree

in pharmacy are not eligible for this scholarship. **The deadline to apply is March 1**. For more information, visit www.chemistry.org/scholars.

The **Daniel B. Goldberg Scholarship** awards up to \$10,000 and is available to full-time students enrolled for Spring 2010 in a graduate program that prepares students for careers in state and local government finance. Applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States or Canada. **The deadline to apply is March 5**. For more information, visit http://www.gfoa.org/.

The **STARS Scholarship** is available to students who have earned or completed 12 undergraduate hours and have at least a 2.7 cumulative grade-point average. Applicants must

have completed a high school diploma by June 2010, be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and must reside in South Texas. **The postmark deadline is March 31**. Apply online at www.southtexasstars.org.

The **AICPA John L. Carey Scholarship Program** awards up to \$5,000 to students who have been accepted into, or are in the process of applying to a graduate program in accounting that is accredited by AACSB International or ACBSP. Applicants must have obtained a liberal arts or other non-business related undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution in the United States. The deadline to apply is April 1. For more information, visit http://ceae.aicpa.org/Resources/Scholarships+and+Awards.

--Compiled by Cleiri Quezada

Police Reports



Following are among the incidents reported by Campus Police between Jan. 12 and 15.

At 8:25 a.m. Jan. 12, a university utility vehicle and a Chevrolet Colorado collided in parking Lot AC. The damage was estimated at \$300.

At 10:15 p.m. the same day, an Aztec employee reported a vacuum cleaner missing from the Arts Center.

At 6:40 a.m. Jan. 13, a man driving a pickup truck struck a

light pole on Gorgas Drive next to Lot I and fled the scene. The pole was found on the ground in the south end of Lot I.

At 9 p.m. Jan. 14, an Aztec employee reported accidentally breaking a novelty plate while cleaning an office in the Life and Health Sciences Building. The plate’s value was estimated at \$25.

At 5:21 p.m. Jan. 15, a student reported being harassed. He said a man approached him and

offered him a job. The student was concerned with the terms of employment and believed the man may be sick or conning people.

--Compiled by Cynthia Hernandez

FOR RENT

Apartment for rent from UTB faculty member. 2 bedroom/1 bathroom, 900 square feet. At Minnesota Ave. and Ruben Torres (next to Garcia Middle School). \$600/month plus utilities. Security deposit. Brand-new refrigerator, stove, washer and dryer. Very clean. 346-0599.



# H1N1 clinic reaches Cameron Park

By **Jacqueline Vasquez**  
*Staff Writer*

Lines were swift and smooth as people filed in to receive the H1N1 vaccine. The injectable and nasal spray vaccines were free to the public.

Nine-year-old Alberto Ibarra and his 5-year-old brother were brought in by their mother Veronica Ibarra. The fourth-grader from Gallegos Elementary School was happy the vaccine was a nasal spray.

“I was a little bit scared, but it didn’t hurt,” Alberto said with a smile. He said his little brother cried and got scared because he thought the nasal spray vaccine was going to hurt like an injection.

The H1N1 vaccination clinic was conducted Tuesday in Cameron Park’s Centro Cultural, located at 2100 Gregory Ave. The clinic was coordinated by the Cameron County Health and Human Services and Parks and Recreation departments.

“We are encouraging individuals to receive the H1N1 vaccine,” Fidel Calvillo, director of the Public Health Response Program, stated in a news release. “As the H1N1 vaccine is now available to all populations, we are making an effort to reach out to the residents in non-traditional clinical settings.”

Calvillo said the Health and Human Services department received additional H1N1 vaccines and were able to have the vaccination clinic in the Cameron Park *colonia*. The county has received over 32,000 H1N1 vaccines since Oct. 6.

He said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has now made the vaccine available for everyone. Previously, only specific target groups were able to receive the vaccine due to the low number of doses in stock at that time.

At the clinic, only healthy individuals ages 2 to 49 were able to receive the nasal

spray vaccine. Those with asthma, chronic conditions, weakened immunities and pregnant women were not able to receive the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine and had to be injected with the vaccine instead.

Calvillo said the nasal spray vaccine is a “live virus” that will not make one sick with the H1N1 virus, but people need to be in good health in order for their immune system to be able to handle it.

“If you get the nasal [spray vaccine], you get immunity within the next few days, versus a shot; [it] takes about two weeks after that before you get the immunity,” he said in an interview with *The Collegian* during the clinic.

The clinic was open from 4 to 7 p.m. and in the first hour administered the vaccine to 120 men, women and children. Calvillo said his department did not have a set number of people that were expected at the clinic, but 3,000 vaccines were available. In total, 284 people were vaccinated.

A Cameron Park resident came to get vaccinated, along with her five children. She said the vaccine did not hurt and came because it was important for her to get her children vaccinated.

“Our children’s health is the most important thing overall,” the woman said in Spanish.

Calvillo said his department has also been working with school districts in order to open H1N1 vaccination clinics in different schools and will continue to do so as long as the school districts consent to it.

The H1N1 vaccination clinics held in schools are free of charge and are available to the public.

The Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services provides free injectable H1N1 vaccines at its four clinics in Brownsville, Harlingen, San Benito and Port Isabel. For more information, call the department at 247-3685.



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN

Marlene Lopez receives the H1N1 vaccine during an H1N1 Vaccination Clinic held Tuesday in Cameron Park’s Centro Cultural. The clinic was coordinated by Cameron County’s Health and Human Services and Parks and Recreation departments.

# Raising Haiti awareness on campus

By **Julianna Sosa**  
*Collegian Editor*

Tens of thousands of lives have been devastated by the 7.0 earthquake that struck Haiti on Jan. 12. The natural disaster has thrust Haiti into the international spotlight and spurred worldwide humanitarian aid. So how can you get involved?

Deena Galvan, president of Active Minds, said the student organization is taking the lead on promoting awareness of the devastation in Haiti.

“What Haiti needs right now are monetary [donations],” Galvan told *The*

*Collegian*. “We are encouraging students to text 90999 to donate \$10 to the Red Cross relief efforts in Haiti.”

Active Minds is a student organization that promotes an open, enlightened discussion about mental health and works to create a better life for all who suffer, according to its Facebook page online.

“Texting them that is very simple,” Galvan said. “Everybody has a cell phone, everybody can text. The feeling of helping somebody is more important than those \$10.”

Victoria Salazar, a preparedness and response associate for the South Texas

Chapter of the American Red Cross, said the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are handling aid efforts in Haiti.

“Just donate to them or they can even send it over here because a lot of people have been stopping by,” Salazar said. “It’s been designated for Haiti, so we make a note on the check.”

The local chapter is located at 6914 W. Expy. 83 in Harlingen and serves Willacy, Hidalgo, Starr and Cameron counties.

Salazar said she has seen a great response from people who want to become volunteers for the organization,

and even travel to Haiti and aid those in need, but added that individuals must go through a lengthy application process. The application requires a code of conduct, a personal statement of understanding, a health status record and a background check. If accepted, individuals must also undergo training.

Those interested in volunteering for the local chapter can download the application online at <http://www.southtexasredcross.org>. Currently, the American Red Cross is not accepting volunteers to travel to Haiti, according to its Web site.

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## Should the SGA award scholarships?



"I think it would be better, especially for people who can't get financial aid. It'll help them a lot better, and

it will give them an easier way to pursue their education, rather than just taking out loans and stuff like that, and getting into like a longtime life debt."

**Johanna Elias**  
Junior management major

"I think that they should because some students get the loans, they can't get jobs and they're not [eligible] for anything, so they can get money."

**Santana Rodriguez**  
Freshman



"I think it's a good idea. It all depends, because you know, every little bit helps; but, it's just the matter of how they're going to part

them out."

**Antonio Nuñez**  
Sophomore business major

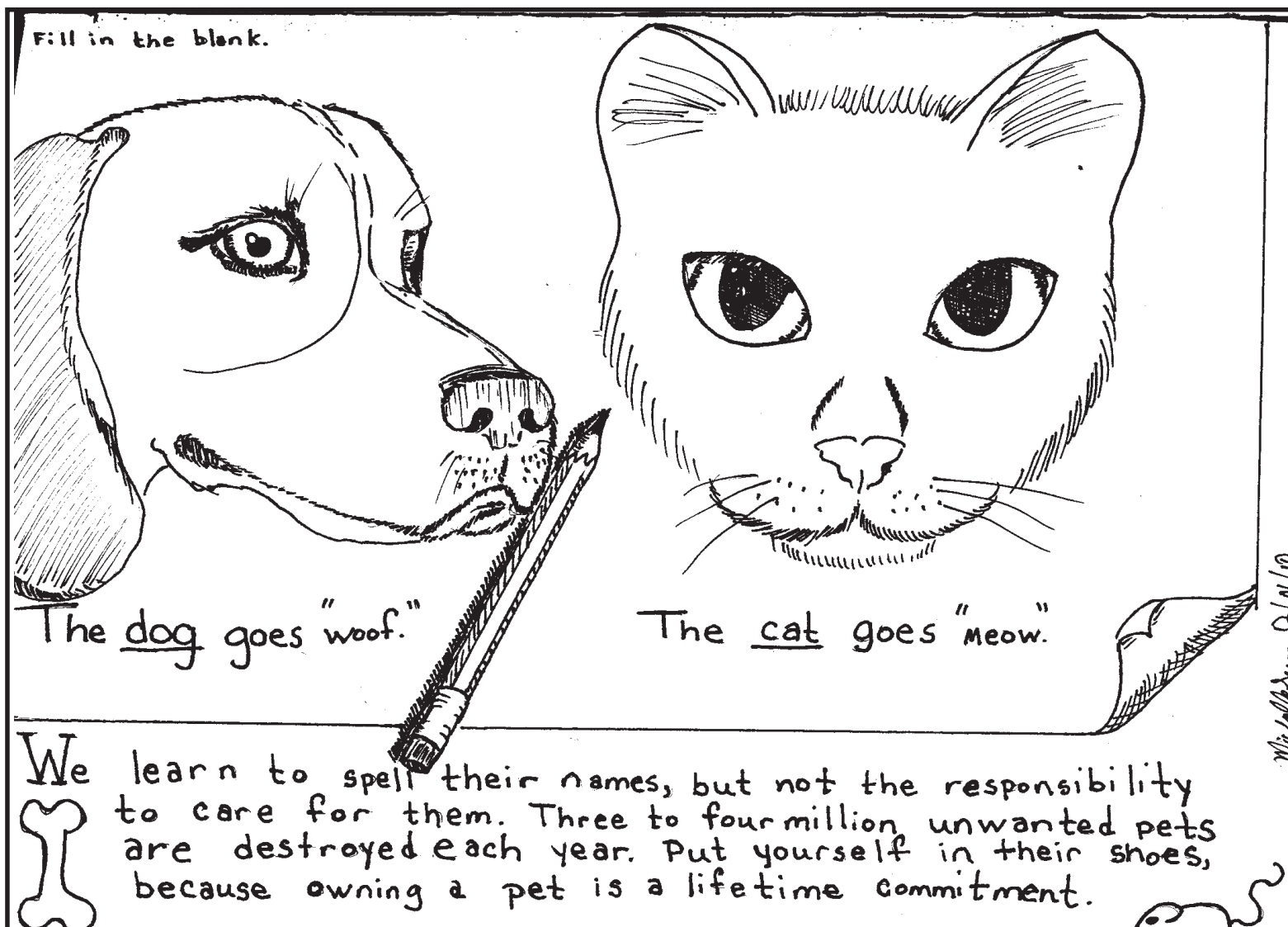


"Yes, I think they should because every student has their hopes and dreams in life and with this scholarship it's going to give

them an advancement to go ahead and do what they need to do. Everybody needs an advantage in life and this is one step that they can take to using this to fulfill their career."

**Norma Linda Angulo**  
Freshman communication major

--Compiled by Cleiri Quezada  
--Photos by Frank Espinosa



## Letters to the editor

### Reality check: power trips

The first words that came out of my mind when I read the [Jan. 25] article about how the "SGA approves scholarship plan," were "Oh, hell no!" Now mind you, I am fine with a little extra scholarship money coming in when I need it. I am, after all, a poor college student like the majority of the student body. Whoever says they aren't must be either delusional or lying to themselves. But after reading this article, I couldn't understand what the purpose of even having a student government here at UTB/TSC was if not to improve student life, school spirit and the overall perspective other people in our community have of UTB/TSC.

I grew up here in Brownsville, and after I graduated in 2007, I left this small town to go out of state--New York in specific--to only come back two years later and transfer to UTB/TSC. Financially, I was a mess and some scholarships I had received freshman year had now fallen through because of the economy. So, here I am back in my hometown. My point is, I come from a land far, far away, where student senators represent their student body with pride and

take their jobs seriously. Reading about how [SGA Vice President of Administration David] Polin doesn't think that the SGA even should have a budget is infuriating. He is basically saying that the SGA should be more self-servant through the provision of scholarships for students "to buy books."

Granted, the idea is nifty, but it robs the rest of the student body who isn't even aware about the scholarship entirely and who still pay mandatory fees that go to the SGA. When in effect, the funds provided for the SGA are for the use of *all* students by either the sponsorship of campus events by the SGA, funding other clubs and overall improvement of the campus (whether it be school spirit or the installment of more security on campus). The system then becomes "transparently" selective in that it chooses students who apply for and win said scholarships, which are inevitably paid for by all of us. Even this, it seems, is at risk of being faulted, as the SGA adviser has suggested removing a GPA requirement on the scholarship application. Though attempting to create accessibility for all, this also becomes nothing but an unfortunate reflection of the

student body, one which questions the confidence some have on the academic potential of the students of UTB/TSC.

[To] the students of UTB/TSC, remember that *you* are paying for these scholarships that are more likely benefiting other people, instead of you. If you want to improve your campus as well as take pride in it, then I strongly advise you start attending these senate meetings as well as actively engage yourself in the system, seeing, of course, as the SGA is severely lacking in membership.

[To] the UTB/TSC administration and faculty, I ask you [to] take a good look at how these student senators, who are said to represent the student populace, are representing your campus. They treat it as a commodity and, from what I read, a burden. And it has been my personal experience within this week and a half of being back in Brownsville (and before that, during my time growing up in Brownsville) that UTB/TSC is faulting in its image and identity as a *real* university providing the world with students with competitive degrees. For the few who take pride in UTB/TSC, there are many more who do not even care. So instead, I see students

and community members who look down upon UTB/TSC, and who don't see it as a growing institution of higher learning, a perspective I want so eagerly to see and believe in.

**Jose M. Uvalles II**  
Freshman transfer student

### Red means stop

Brownsville health and police employees told me to clear a corner so stopped vehicles' drivers could see the street they would cross or turn into after stopping.

I cleared as told.

But as for stop signs: Stop means stop before the sign, a dead stop; then, the driver should ease out. Stop does not mean rolling through, slowing, but not stopping.

So, drivers: Stop properly, and then move forward or turn, slowly. And also for drivers: Do not park near corners, thus blocking drivers' views. Property owners, clear those corners.

To a slower, calmer and more patient style in those vehicles ...

**Eugene "Gene" Novogrodsky**  
Brownsville

**Watch:**

**"The Collegian News Webcast"**

@

[www.utbcollegian.com](http://www.utbcollegian.com)



### Letters to the editor policy

Letters must include the name, major, classification and phone number of the author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in *The Collegian* are those of writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Collegian* or UTB/TSC administrators. The editor reserves the right to edit the letters. Letters for *The Collegian* can be sent to [collegian@utb.edu](mailto:collegian@utb.edu).



Primary Elections: Cameron County judge’s race

Editor’s Note: Collegian Staff Writers David Boon, Christine Cavazos and Cynthia Hernandez recently interviewed candidates seeking election as Cameron County judge.

**Name:** Carlos Cascos  
**Age:** 57  
**Hometown:** Brownsville  
**Education:** Bachelor’s degree in political science from University of Texas at Austin; certified public accountant  
**Family:** Married; 2 children  
**Occupation:** Cameron County judge

**Party Affiliation:** Republican  
**Experience:** County commissioner, 12 years; Texas Department of Public Safety Commission, two years; appointed to state task force studying the logistics and evacuations for the coastal area; Governor’s Border Security Council chair, 2007; county judge since 2007

**What are your accomplishments as Cameron County Judge?** “We have to look at accomplishments of the commissioners court—not necessarily any one individual because it does take a majority of three to get anything done. What we’ve done over the last three years is, first of all, we’re better prepared for emergency situations. ... We’ve expanded in terms of grant money received in our emergency management division. We’ve been tested by Hurricane Dean ... by Hurricane Dolly and I believe that we are better prepared today than we were three years ago. We have a very large indigent population that requires healthcare; about a year and a half or so ago, we formed a partnership with Valley Baptist Hospital and [they] became our partner, in terms that they took over our indigent healthcare program. ... We were able to leverage significantly amount of monies, in the millions, to provide year-round indigent healthcare to our residents. ... In terms of quality of life, we opened two additional community parks, one in Rio Hondo [and] one in La Paloma. A Boys & Girls Club in Santa Rosa is in the works, Los Fresnos as well. Our infrastructure continues to expand. Everything that we are doing, we are doing within the financial constraints that we have. The county has over the last couple of years, just like everywhere in the nation, been challenged by finances. What I brought to the table is a fiscal moderation. ... We [have] raised the tax rate 1.5 cents over the last three years. We continue to maintain one of the lowest tax rates in the state ... at 36 cents per hundred, that’s in spite of losing over the last couple of years over \$3 million in bridge crossings.”

**What challenges face Cameron County, and how will you address them?** “We continue to meet challenges like the rest of the country in terms of economics; we are not immune to the slow economy that we are all facing. We continue to look at ways to save money, cutting expenses [in] innovative ways,



Carlos Cascos

whether it means reducing our fuel consumption. We are strongly spearheading the move to go green by installing wind energy; in fact, we received a grant to do that. We have to continue maximizing our local dollars with state and federal dollars when it comes to infrastructure. A veterans hospital is something that I have been involved with since day one, in terms of coming together with the other county officials in advocating for a veterans hospital in the Rio Grande Valley. The challenges are unknown, we are going to face some problems, but we are no different than anybody else; we are not immune to what goes on around us.”

**What are your goals if elected?** “I want to continue with the same work ethic, strategy, bringing people together, reaching out and I cannot do this by myself. I cannot raise taxes by myself, nor can I cut taxes by myself, but my role is to be the chief executive officer of the county and do everything I can to be able to provide services that are in need but at the same time keeping in mind that we have financial constraints. That’s probably the hardest thing, trying to explain to people why we cannot do certain things, because everything we do there is a price associated with it and that’s just the nature of the business. We don’t have anything to sell but service, and we don’t sell that, that’s an obligation. In terms of anything new that I’m going to do, I’m not going to do anything new, I’m just going to continue with what I started. I want to continue being an advocate for Cameron County, for the residents, for the veterans, for the entire population.”

**Do you support the West Parkway project? Why or why not?** “I support the concept; I’m not comfortable with the existing plan in terms of tolling the road all the way to Amigoland Mall [the International Technology, Education and Commerce Center]. I believe that we need to look at infrastructure, but conceptually, I think it’s a worthy project. I think we have a lot of fine-tuning to do. ... We have to find a way to do a hike-and-bike trail, but what if the tollway doesn’t come all the way to Amigoland Mall [ITECC]? Maybe it could stop at Boca Chica, as an example. That



John Wood

is something that the Regional Mobility Authority is working on and when the time comes, I’ll look at the final product. They’re still in a lot of public hearings ... but we don’t know what it’s going to look like at this point.”  
**There is a decline in toll revenue from the county’s international bridges. By how much? How important is that revenue to the county’s budget, and how will you address the decline in revenue?** “We lost \$3.2 million during the last two budgets. The good news is that the first quarter of this year, 2009, it appears that it’s up a little bit from last year, so maybe the hemorrhaging has either slowed down or stopped. We get periodic reports on that every quarter, that’s why we had to raise the tax rate this past budget by a penny because we lost over \$1 million. ... The bridge revenues are used to subsidize our general fund, so the first year I was in office, we cut the tax rate by half a penny, the second budget I believe we raised it by a penny and this past time by a penny so, in the last three years the net net has been 1.5 pennies.”

**Are you in support of a second causeway for South Padre Island? Why or why not? What is the status of that project?** “Absolutely, the Island is the most expensive piece of property that Cameron County has. South Padre Island generates almost 20 percent of our ad valorem taxes. The Island is constricted; it’s got difficulty growing to the north. ... We need one more way to get off the Island, not only like when the [2001 causeway collapse], but in terms of evacuations, where storms do damage to one. If you build the new causeway on the north end of the Island, which is what is being contemplated, the economic impact is going to be tremendous because it’s going to spur economic growth on the north end of the Island; and when that happens, it’s going to create jobs.”

**Please explain why the county commissioners and the district attorney are at odds over the county’s legal representation.** “We have a difference of opinions; the district attorney believes he is solely responsible to provide the advice to the commissioners’ court. The commission believes that that is not accurate, and so



Ediberto J. Treviño Jr.

the best way to do it is to put it out there and take it to the highest court, but there’s a difference of opinion, of interpretation of the law. We believe that we have the ability and the legal authority to hire our own civil counsel. The district attorney believes that only he and he alone can provide that advice and so we took a stand and it’s going to get worked out in the court of law. This way is OK because it puts it to rest for once and for all. Hopefully, once we get past this, we can move on.”  
**Name:** John Wood

**Age:** 64  
**Education:** Bachelor’s degree in marketing from the University of Texas-Pan American at Brownsville  
**Family:** Married; 2 children  
**Occupation:** Cameron County Commissioner Precinct 2  
**Party Affiliation:** Democrat  
**Experience:** Brownsville city commissioner, 8 years; county commissioner, 7 years

**What are your accomplishments and how do you think they have prepared you for being a county judge?** “I’ve been the lead on relocating the rail to the West of Brownsville. I’ve been able to work with the state and have funding available for some improvements, to some of the colonias in my precinct. All of the streets and drainage have been reworked and repaired in Olmito. We are continuing to work on the streets and drainage in Cameron Park; about half of it has been completely repaired and has sidewalks. I’ve been able to serve on the [The Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group Region M], which works to put together plans for the needs of water for our entire area, not just Cameron County but all the way up to Eagle Pass. [The accomplishments] give me a lot of background information and knowledge to committing to full time. [Being elected] county judge will give me the opportunity to continue working on not only these projects, but also working [on other] county projects and getting funding. [Also,] working with the federal and state government on acquiring money for all of the different types of projects we have at the county.”

**What challenges face Cameron County, and how will you address them?** “Most of



Rebecca Gomez

the challenges are going to be addressed by money and that comes from Austin and Washington. There are challenges like drainage problems, there are challenges like infrastructure, roadways, [and] there are challenges of growth in the county. [Other challenges are] providing the proper number of personnel for law enforcement, sheriff deputies, constables, providing the proper number of people for animal control. We all need to work together to provide those services and it’s not an easy job because it takes a lot of money to do those things, but working together and working with the other elected officials, not just the county officials, but also working with their communities [to] partner with them to [solve] problems. I have done that type of thing, working with other people, communicating with people and working closely with other organizations to solve the problems. I’ve done that for the last 20 years.”

**What are your goals if elected?** “First goal is establishing good communication within all of the communities in the county. Our second goal is to assist the other communities in the county with economic development; the county doesn’t have an economic development group, but we need to be working with the ones who do have an economic development group to help get new businesses in, new businesses like construction and retail businesses all across the board to provide more and better jobs for everybody.”

**Do you support the West Parkway Project? Why or why not?** “I do not, because I was part of the Brownsville City Commission when we first looked at relocating the rail out of Brownsville, and the people that lived along the rail had been separated from the other part of the city ever since the homes had been built because the rail was there for 100 years. The access is terrible, emergency vehicles had a hard time getting across and to remove the rail and then put a limited restricted access back in its place isn’t solving the problem that those folks have. It’s possibly creating more problems and they



Politics

Continued from Page 5

were promised what would probably go in would be a normal city street and there would be more crossings into the neighborhood, so that access could be easier. So, to put in a restricted or limited access parkway, I don't think is fair to the community in that part of town. They are talking about now having elevated roadways, people paying a toll road, limited access to it and there's going to be traffic noise going in there, pollution, so I would like to see a regular roadway."

**We heard there is a decline in toll revenue from the county's international bridges. Is that true? By how much? How important is that revenue to the county's budget, and how will you address the decline in revenue?** "We had a decline last year. We readjusted the budget downward, and this year we are so far, the first quarter of the year, we are exceeding what we projected to come in. It is true that we are seeing less traffic across the bridge for various reasons. The primary one, I guess, is probably the passport issue. The second is the congestion of the bridge; I've been involved in the prospects of getting permitted for widening the Veterans Bridge [at Los Tomates]. I have been involved in promoting that idea to Mexico a couple of years now and they have come on board; we are just waiting on some issues from the State Department. We are about \$220,000 more this first quarter than we were last year first quarter, but still not where we would like to be. The bridge toll revenue would ... equal probably about 2.5 cents of tax revenue. So, say we didn't have the bridge toll at all, it would mean an increase in taxes on people's properties of about 2.5 cents. Also, the idea of widening the Veterans Bridge will provide better traffic flow, it will cut time for people to get back and across. We think that doing that will improve the number of people coming across, which then in turn will increase the revenue."

**Are you in support of a second causeway for South Padre Island? Why or why not? What is the status of that project?** "Yes, well the causeway was built in the '70s and it's getting old and it's still in good shape. We have to maintain it and we are going to continue to use it for another 50 years. But the growth of the Island and the attraction of the Island to the rest of the United States requires that we have better access to the Island. It will also provide much needed [relief] to Spring Break and all the other holidays. That's an improvement that needs to be done. It's not going to be done real quick because environmental issues have to be taken care of. Studies have to be done and it's going to take some time to get

those done. If it gets cleared, I think it will, it's going to provide much more access to the Island and make things much easier and better."

**Please explain why county commissioners and the district attorney are at odds over the commissioners' court legal representation.** "Because we are at odds, because we do have a lawsuit pending, I can't explain that."

**Name:** Ediberto "Eddie" Treviño Jr.

**Age:** 44

**Hometown:** Brownsville

**Education:** Graduated from St. Joseph Academy in 1983; received a bachelor's degree in international relations from St. Mary's University in 1986; graduated from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law in 1989

**Family:** Married, 3 children

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Party Affiliation:** Democrat

**Experience:** Served as a Brownsville city commissioner from 2001 to 2003; mayor of Brownsville from 2003 to 2007; Brownsville Public Utilities Board member; member of the Brownsville Economic Development Council

**What are your accomplishments and how do you think they have prepared you for being a county judge?** "Obviously, having served as the mayor of Brownville and overseeing a budget of over a hundred million [dollars], similar to the county's, is extremely important and beneficial. Having led the city for those four years, during a time of growth and prosperity and lack of controversy, put Brownsville in a very positive light from an economic standpoint; instituted the Mayor's Book of the Month Club, promoting literacy and reading with our youth in Brownsville, developed and completed the Brownsville's Veterans Park in gratitude for the service of the men and women from our community who have served our country in the military; completed all the renovations and redevelopment of Ringgold Park, including the Children's Museum; established the Comprehensive Master Plan-Imagine Brownsville campaign, which is now developed into [the] United Brownsville campaign, cooperation among all entities in the city."

**What challenges face Cameron County, and how will you address them?** "Well, obviously, one of the main ones is the growth issue. Cameron County is anticipated to continue to grow over the next several years, and while one can't control it, it can be managed and we need to review and manage our resources in a way that we're providing the services that are expected [from] our citizens. We need to make sure that we're keeping a watchful eye over the budget in revenue so that you don't face deficit budgets, like the county's done

the last two years, at the very last minute having to cut almost a million dollars and a half a year, and went over \$5 million this past budget, so that's something that needs to be controlled and done without raising property taxes."

**What are your goals if elected?** "Well, obviously, county government, among its many responsibilities, is making sure that law enforcement through the district attorney's office, through the sheriff's office and through the judiciary to have the resources needed to fulfill their obligations and commitment to the community. Among some of the most important matters that need to be raised is clear and better communication between all of the elected officials so that any controversies are minimal, no disruption to the services that the county's supposed to be providing to its citizens. Also, making sure that they're proactive and they're planning, so that the situation doesn't develop where you [have] the jail overcrowded and have to send prisoners to other jails because we don't have the room for them, even though they've known about this for quite some time and weren't prepared and losing that revenue, especially in a time where revenues [have] been cut."

**Do you support the West Parkway project? Why or why not?** "Yes, absolutely. I worked on it while I was mayor, moving it forward in cooperation in working with the county. With regards to the relocation of the rail, taking it out of the community and residential areas is a win-win [situation]. There's been some confusion. There's one project that's the West Rail relocation plan. That's what I'm talking about, moving the rails out of the residential areas in Brownsville proper and moving it outside of the area so that it has less impact upon driver interaction and also create an opportunity for additional commercial development. ... [The toll project] is a little bit of a newer issue. I still have to get additional information. I know that there's some opposition to that because of the proposal to cut through some of the neighborhood. I'm not committed one way or the other on that project yet."

**There is a decline in toll revenue from the county's international bridges. How important is that revenue to the county's budget, and how will you address the decline in revenue?** "What they did is they raised the toll on individual vehicles, but not on the commercial traffic, which is kind of interesting because that hurts the individual who goes on an infrequent basis and doesn't share the burden with the commercial traffic. ... Obviously, one thing you would do is equalize the toll between commercial and private vehicles. That would benefit in one way. If it's one of your sources of revenue and there's

a decline, you've got to make up for it elsewhere, or you've got to cut services, or in this instance, they cut services and they still raised taxes. To think that they'd had a shortfall of a million dollars the year before, the county commission and the county judge should have been diligent in reviewing the numbers on a weekly and a monthly and quarterly basis to see where the revenues were coming so that at the end of the year, you might not have ended up with such a shortfall and you might have been able to address it prior to the budgetary process. So you've gotta, you know, sometimes, you look for ways to revenue--there's been a downturn in the economy overall in our country, we saw that coming--but what's interesting is that even though they raised the tolls at the bridge, they didn't raise it for, as my understanding, they didn't raise it for commercial traffic, which as my understanding that the largest percentage of the traffic crossing at the international bridges is commercial traffic, not private traffic. ... They raised it against the individual, but they didn't raise it against the commercial truck traffic. I know that that's a concern, but it could have been just a short-term issue to address, I don't understand why you would raise it against the individual whom you want going and coming over there and here, you want the Mexican national coming over to spend their money here. The commercial traffic, obviously, that's part of their cost of doing business."

**Are you in support of a second causeway for South Padre Island? Why or why not?** "I'm in support of a second causeway. I think that there are some number of issues that are still surrounding that particular the project, most importantly the funding from the state of Texas. There's a little bit of conflicting testimony, or evidence, whether or not the Texas State Department of Transportation has the money for it and if everybody at the Island and Port Isabel are on board in regards with the proposed location, but anything that is going to help generate tourism dollars that is going to address additional transportation issues, which we obviously saw when the causeway collapsed [in 2001], anything that is going to benefit the community, I am in favor of it. I'm in favor of the second causeway, I'm just not sure that all of the players that need to be involved are all on the same page yet and also, most importantly, it is my understanding that the funding has not been put in place."

**Should the district attorney's staff represent the commissioners' court or should the court have the right to choose its own lawyers? Why or why not?** "I haven't read the brief from both

• See 'Politics,' Page 15


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# How to be a 10 in 2010

By Albert Orozco  
*Staff Writer*

Childhood was that wonderful time of life when all you needed to lose weight was to take a bath!

Unfortunately, now it will take more than good hygiene habits to become a 10 in 2010. So, in keeping with the New Year’s theme, let’s delve into the concept of weight loss.

“The traditional diets do not work as effectively, unless you are adding the right amount of carbs, protein and fats, as well as fiber and minerals,” said Scott Herman, a sports nutrition expert and personal trainer whose Web site, [scotthermanfitness.com](http://scotthermanfitness.com), features free fitness videos and other weight-loss tools.

When humans feel deprived, they often end up overeating.

Herman, a National Academy of Sports Medicine certified personal trainer in Salem, Mass., has some helpful tips for students to get in shape:

--Stop drinking soda. This includes heavy energy drinks, some teas and a few sports drinks.

“First of all, regular soda has a ton of sugar and some chemicals with absolutely no nutrition,” Herman said. He added that diet soda is not a better alternative because some contain chemicals such as aspartame,



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN  
Alumni Jennifer Mota (left) and Govinda Gonzalez work out on the elliptical machines Wednesday in the Recreation, Education and Kinesiology Center.

which is suspected of causing cancer, according to WebMD.

Mike Cisneros, a kinesiology major, cut out sodas and lost 23 pounds.

“I lost about 23 pounds just by switching to water and I drank about a gallon per day,” Cisneros said.

--Cut out the bread.

Herman said unless you are incorporating spelt, organic or whole-grain bread into your daily meals, cut out the bread.

“I guarantee that if you really take these on, you will see results for yourself and how others behave around you,” Herman told *The Collegian* in a telephone interview.

He said most breads have a great deal of carbohydrates, sugar and little nutritional value.

Herman also recommends carb cycling for quick and healthy weight loss.

Carb cycling allows an individual to alternate between days with low carbohydrate intake and days with regular carbohydrate intake. Carbohydrates are the most common source of energy found in food. Low-carbohydrate foods include lettuce, asparagus, apples, bananas, oranges, salmon, sardines and anchovies. High-carbohydrate foods are potatoes, rice, yams, oatmeal, bagels, pasta, spaghetti, refried beans and cereal. You can consume high-carb foods for your moderate carbohydrate

• See ‘How to,’ Page 8



CLEIRI QUEZADA/COLLEGIAN

**Name:** David Lee Valdez II

**Age:** 19

**Classification:** Sophomore

**Major:** Pre-med biology

**Who do you love the most?** “Probably, my little brother.”

**If you could date a celebrity, who would it be? Why?** “Mila Kunis, because I like the personality she portrays.”

**What’s the last thing you think about before you go to sleep?** “I reflect on what happened that day.”

**Would you date someone older or younger than you?** “Age is just a number, but I like younger.”

**What makes you happy?** “Life; I’m just a happy person.”

**Do you own any pets?** “I have a dog; his name is Nicholas because he was

born on Christmas Day.”

**What is your ideal girl?**

“I like someone who has a great personality, really fun and [who] shares my optimism.”

**Where would you like to travel?** “I really want to go to Spain and Ireland because that’s where my family comes from.”

**Do you work? Where?**

“I work at elementary schools and I teach kids chess. I also work at my dad’s music store.”

**Free Association Quiz:**

**Makeup:** “Fake.”

**School:** “Interesting.”

**Trance:** “Fun.”

**Turn-on:** “Good smile.”

--Compiled by Cleiri Quezada

If you would like to be featured in Cupid’s Corner, call Cleiri Quezada at 882-5143 or send her an e-mail at [collegian@utb.edu](mailto:collegian@utb.edu).

## ’Scopes

By Francisco Garza  
*Webcast Editor*

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19):** This week do not forget to log out when you finish using the computer in the library, unless you want everyone else to discover your love for Cabbage Patch dolls.

**Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20):** You cannot stay mad forever. It’s easier when you learn to forgive. Then when you finally decide to get revenge, they won’t expect it.

**Aries (March 21-April 19):** Life is a race. Do not forget to tie your shoelaces.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Congratulations! Today you are older, which means wiser. So, can you tell me where I left my keys?

**Gemini (May 21-June 21):** Remember: It’s all fun and games until someone explodes.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22):** So what? Just because you’re alone right now does not mean you’ll be alone forever. There’s always the possibility of meeting that special someone. Or, if that does not

work out, you can always build a robot to keep you company.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 23):** Sometimes a lab accident is just a blessing in disguise. Keep telling yourself that. Anyway, hair grows back.

**Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 22):** Do not get upset. The next time someone calls you crazy, just throw them a dignified look and say you’re not crazy, just eccentric.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23):** Just a reminder for that indie concert you are going to this weekend—just because it’s indie rock does not mean you have to bring a hat and a whip.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** This week feel free to exaggerate. If you live in an apartment, say you live in a condo. If you ride the bus, say you have a limo. And if you’re unemployed, just say you are an independent consultant.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Goose!

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** This week you will fall in love, but do not get too excited about it. It’s with onion rings.

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# SGA's clerk and cash remain

By Rene Cardona Jr.

*Staff Writer*

Student Government Association President Ruby de la Fuente vetoed Resolutions 20 and 21, but the senate voted Thursday to override her action.

The resolutions, however, still have to be reviewed by UTB/TSC Vice President for Student Affairs Hilda Silva.

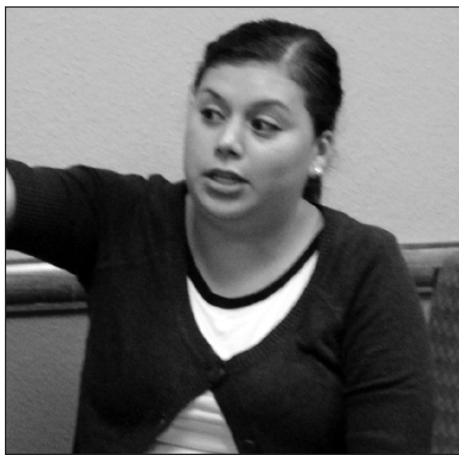
David Polin, the SGA's vice president of administration, asserted that Resolution 20, which calls for eliminating the SGA clerk position, and Resolution 21, which allocates \$15,000 for 60 \$250 scholarships, are finalized and will not be stopped by the UTB/TSC administration.

"As far as I'm concerned, [scholarship] essays can start being submitted right now, and we no longer have an SGA clerk, bottom line," Polin said. "Nowhere [in the SGA constitution] does it say they can withhold signature on what we choose to spend."

However, UTB/TSC officials say otherwise.

Associate Vice President and Dean of Students Mari Fuentes-Martin, the SGA's account manager, said Silva has to review the resolutions before they can be implemented. As the account manager, Fuentes-Martin must also sign off on the resolution.

"The way I interpret is that the constitution says that nothing in the SGA can overrule the [UT System's board of] regents' rules or any administrative decision by UTB/TSC," Fuentes-Martin said. "So, it's not absolute because it was passed by the senate, vetoed by the executive branch,



Rosalinda Rangel

then overruled by the senate--which is now [down to] only three people--and then will have to be decided administratively by Dr. Silva whether it can proceed or not."

The dean of students said she did not support the resolutions and that her concerns with them had been voiced during the SGA Executive Board meeting Jan. 19, when Polin first brought them to the table.

"He doesn't care," Fuentes-Martin said, referring to Polin. "He moves forward with the resolutions knowing that, administratively, it won't be supported."

The \$15,000 scholarship allocation, Fuentes-Martin said, is not a wise use of the SGA budget considering there are many issues on campus the funds could be directed toward. She also said graduate student Rosalinda Rangel has done well in her position as SGA clerk and that she believes it is a personal attack on Polin's part.

"SGA can use these resources to become more involved, and I just don't see where

scholarships for a few people would do that," she said. "Rosalinda has been one of the few consistent people involved with SGA in her office hours and maintaining order. ... I don't think her performance requires a change. I think this is David Polin attacking Rosalinda personally, and so I don't think it's grounded on merit."

Polin denied that any personal feelings were involved when creating the resolutions and remains confident in his interpretation of the constitution.

"Absolutely not," he said. "I gave my justification for passing the resolutions and I'm going to stick by those. I just figured it was a new semester and the best way to get off on the right foot in this new direction after last semester. ... With today's override of the president's veto, it's a done deal and I'll fight it all the way up to Austin if I have to."

De la Fuente confirmed that Rangel is still employed as the SGA clerk. She said the executive office still has a large list of potential projects, such as Scorpion Academy, which is a training session for all students in police strategy, surveying the student body and hosting events that support UTB/TSC's athletes.

"The senate is really the heart and soul of SGA," she said. "The constitution gives the senate, basically, all the power to decide what are the important matters and what are not. It is just so sad that the soul and the heart of the SGA is missing."

Polin graduated from UTB/TSC last December and gave multiple indications of his intent to leave the SGA, so his return as vice president of administration came as a surprise to Fuentes-Martin and de la

Fuente.

"He wrote the farewell [letter to] *The Collegian*; at the last SGA meeting, which was not covered by *The Collegian*, he said his goodbyes and indicated he was graduating and moving on," Fuentes-Martin said. "There was no official resignation, so I guess it kind of just came as a surprise when he returned at the beginning of the semester because we were expecting to be able to appoint a new person to that position."

Polin confirmed that he did not resign and said he had no intention of leaving the SGA.

"I was away for the holiday then I came back to class ... just like everybody else," he said. "From my position, it's a moot issue. I don't think I'll have an issue."

De la Fuente said student leaders informed her of the creation of a petition asking for the removal of all members of the senate who were not voted in by the student body. The petition will circumvent the need of the senate's vote, since, as de la Fuente said, the problem is with the three-person senate that is given too much power by the constitution. It directly asks the administration to have special elections instead.

"The reason we want for special elections is so we can have the removal of all members that were not voted in SGA, which basically means all of them," de la Fuente said. "The purpose of this petition is to give power back to the students; these students did not elect these individuals. As far as I know, the petition is asking for the student body to re-elect or reappoint ... the senate so ... some more can be done."

## United Brownsville kicks off with signing ceremony

*UTB/TSC Office of News & Information*

The wheels of change kept their momentum Jan. 21 as UTB/TSC and six other entities launched United Brownsville with a signing ceremony at City Hall.

Starting where Imagine Brownsville left off, the newly formed United Brownsville will have an organizational structure designed to provide a sustainable mechanism for cooperation to leverage institutional resources for the implementation and tracking of the initiatives in the Imagine Brownsville plan.

"We must again come together," said UTB/TSC President Juliet V. García, a United Brownsville board co-chair. "Any one of us alone can achieve small things, but it takes a community to come together to achieve bigger things."

UTB/TSC was asked to collaborate as a full partner with the community around the implementing the key investments and strategies identified in Imagine Brownsville as a member of the United Brownsville Plan Coordinating Board.

The board represents a new approach to create a more sustainable, competitive regional community. The university joins with the City of Brownsville, the Port of Brownsville, the Brownsville Independent School District, the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corp., the Brownsville Public Utilities Board and the Brownsville Community Improvement Corp. on the board.

"What's more exciting is we are taking the next step in moving forward with the notion of a plan to a movement of making things happen," said Irv Downing, UTB/TSC vice president for Economic Development and Community Services and a board co-chair. "All this is beyond just one institution and



COURTESY PHOTO

Fred Rusteberg, president and CEO of the International Bank of Commerce in Brownsville, is one of the board co-chairs for the United Brownsville Plan Coordinating Board.

only when we leverage our resources can Brownsville really meet the challenges."

The Imagine Brownsville Comprehensive Plan provided the foundation for guiding the future growth of the Brownsville Borderplex that is consistent with the vision and goals of the community. The development of the plan involved the participation of hundreds of residents and institutions throughout the process.

"When we agreed to lead Imagine Brownsville, it was never meant to be a plan that would sit on the shelf when it was completed. Plans demand action, and that's what United Brownsville is about," said Fred Rusteberg, president and CEO of the International Bank of Commerce in Brownsville and board co-chair. "We are excited to begin the implementation phase of the plan. This is a truly historic occasion."

The plan outlines the key private and public sector strategies needed to create a more sustainable competitive community in order to attract the capital and resources needed to improve the economic development and quality of life of the Brownsville area.

For more information about United Brownsville, visit [www.imaginebrownsville.com](http://www.imaginebrownsville.com).





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SGA

Continued from Page 1

initiative to illustrate “the importance of every citizen’s constitutional right to vote and what it means to be an active participant of the democratic process.”

“I think this very much fulfills the purpose of student government, and I support this very much,” Polin said.

During the “Let Your Voice Be Heard” section of the meeting, sophomore communication major Aarin Hartwell informed of her interest to become part of the senate. Polin said he hoped to see her as part of the senate soon.

After the student forum portion of the meeting, Polin announced the elimination of the “Adviser’s Corner.”

“I’ve done away with the ‘Adviser’s Corner’ from the senate’s meetings due to comments that were made last week,” Polin said.

He explained that the constitution made no requirement of having an “Adviser’s Corner,” but does require an adviser at the meetings, nonetheless. After the meeting, Polin further explained his reasoning for the elimination.

“I’ve seen them as critical of the goals set forth by the senate,” he said. “I’ve seen them partial to the executive branch of the SGA, and that’s not their role. At the end of the day, I don’t think they should attend any meeting; we’re not in high school. We can function perfectly well by ourselves.”

David Marquez, SGA adviser, was not aware of the elimination until the senate meeting because he didn’t attend the SGA Executive Board meeting where it was made official.

“I wasn’t very nice to them,” Marquez



MANUEL REYNA/COLLEGIAN

Vice President of Administration David Polin (center) discusses two resolutions during Thursday’s Student Government Association meeting in Salon Gardenia. One proposal allocates funds for “Project 100%” and the other allocates funds for gifts to be presented to C-Span Civics representatives who were on campus Friday.

said after the meeting. “I don’t blame them for wanting to take out that portion. The only thing I was going to say this week anyways was in regards to what I said last week. I was actually going to apologize for some of the things I said, but I didn’t have a chance. I still feel that I am doing the best I can as an adviser and steer them in the right direction.”

Absent from the meeting was President

Ruby de la Fuente. She told *The Collegian* Friday she saw the decision as the best way to avoid any further issues.

“David, honestly, has made it really tough for me to have a relationship with the senate at this point -- the remainder of the senate, if we can even call it that,” de la Fuente said. “So, it’s just really to prevent any problems.”

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***Nominations for the 2009-2010***

*Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges and Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges are now being accepted by the Office of the Dean of Students. This program is to honor outstanding campus student leaders for both scholastic, campus and community achievements.*

The following criteria apply to all nominees:

**1. Academic Requirements**

Undergraduates

- Minimum GPA of 3.0 in all course work
- Currently enrolled in at least 6 semester hours
- Completed at least 60 semester hours (juniors and seniors only for Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges)

OR

- Completed at least one semester and have less than 59 semester hours (freshman and sophomores only for Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges)

Graduates

- Minimum GPA of 3.75 in all graduate course work
- Currently enrolled in at least 6 semester hours
- Completed at least 6 graduate semester hours

**2. No record of academic or discipline probation or suspension**

**3. A member of at least one UTB/TSC registered student organization**

**Deadline to apply is 4 p.m. Feb. 5**

Applications are available at <http://www.utb.edu/sa/dos/Pages/whoswho.aspx>  
Please complete and submit your application to the Dean of Students Office, located in the Pan Am building, no later than 4 p.m. February 5.

For further information, contact David Marquez, Coordinator for Student Judicial Affairs, at 882-5141.

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Students can download the application and requirements at:  
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For more information, contact the Orientation Office at (956) 882-5776.



# Chess team advances to Final 4

By Cleiri Quezada  
Staff Writer

The UTB/TSC Chess Team overcame a difficult fall semester to qualify for the President's Cup for the second year in a row.

The university placed fourth at the 2009 Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championships last December, but the absence of their former coach, Grand Master Gilberto Hernandez, made its success difficult to accomplish.

Program Director Russell Harwood was worried about competing.

"It was sort of a challenging semester because our coach, Gilberto Hernandez, went home to be with his family at the start of the semester ... so it was a little tough," Harwood said.

However, he is proud of how determined his players were during the 2009 Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships, conducted Dec. 27-30 on South Padre Island.

Out of the 28 chess teams competing, UTB/TSC came in as the fifth team with most points, but because two of the teams above them were from the same university, the chess team came in as the fourth university.

"We were fifth among teams and fourth among universities," Harwood said. "Two of the teams above us were both from UT-Dallas and the Final Four is by university, not by teams, so we were the fourth-place university."

The University of Maryland-Baltimore County placed first; University of Texas at Dallas, second; and Texas Tech University, third.

UTB/TSC hosted the Pan American



COURTESY PHOTO

The UTB/TSC chess team received fourth place during the Pan American Tournament, held from Dec. 27 to 30 on South Padre Island. At the closing ceremony were (front row, from left) Jose Cantu, Alfonso Almeida, Axel Bachmann, Javier Nieto, UTB/TSC President Juliet V. Garcia, Mauricio Flores, Nadya Ortiz, Julia Jones and Luciana Morales. Second row: Chess Program Director Russell Harwood, Zachary Sundt, Alan Gracia, David Lee Valdez, Timur Gareyev, Max Comejo, Arturo Gracia Jr. and Hector Balandran.

championships.

"Since we were hosting the Pan Am [and] we're also hosting the Final 4, I think [the players] felt a lot of pressure to qualify," Harwood said.

The 2009 Pan American Chess Championships was one of the hardest tournaments Harwood had ever experienced.

"It was a real tough tournament; it was probably the toughest Pan Am since I've been involved, as far as the number of really strong teams, so I was very pleased to qualify," he said.

The Scorpion players felt the pressure of the tournament as well.

Grand Master and Chess Team Vice President Timur Gareyev said he and his

teammates did not feel as prepared for the tournament as they would have liked.

"Certain things [did not allow us to feel prepared] optimally, because of the absence of the coach, essentially some of the players relied on a certain extent on preparation, generally, support and interaction with Coach Hernandez," Gareyev said.

It was the junior business major's second time to compete in the Pan Am.

"It was probably the strongest collegiate event in the history of collegiate chess. ... It was a very challenging competition," Gareyev said. "It's never been that strong."

UTB/TSC's team had strong and dedicated players, but what helped them place in the Final 4 was their mutual support.

"Our advantage was team spirit, we felt very connected and supportive of each other," Gareyev said.

Almost everyone on the team knew what to expect from the tournament; however, freshman Hector Balandran did not.

"I thought I was prepared but I actually need to practice more," Balandran said. "There's a lot of competition from the other places people came; they have new strategies and tactics to play. I need to practice more of those tactics."

UTB/TSC will host the President's Cup, also known as the Final 4, on April 10 and 11 in the Education and Business Complex's Salon Cassia. The chess team will compete against the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, UT-Dallas and Texas Tech.



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ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN PHOTOS

Junior communication major Stephanie Lucas suggests raising academic standards during Thursday's symposium on the writing and communication proficiency of UTB/TSC students.

Symposium

Continued from Page 1

“One of the things that I see students not taking advantage of as much as I would like them to take advantage of are the support services for students on this campus,” said Teresa Murden, an associate professor in the English Department.

The lack of communication and writing proficiencies was also linked to students taking advantage of the biliterate certificate. Students earn the certificated by taking courses in which the lecturing is conducted in Spanish.

“This is a certificate that actually encourages you to take courses in Spanish,” said Teresa Gallegos, an associate professor in the English Department. “We wonder, faculty [members] wonder, ‘Are students taking those classes to avoid taking classes

in English?’ The idea was for students from Brownsville to learn Spanish, but instead it [has] become a way for Spanish speakers to avoid English.”

Junior communication major Stephanie Lucas agreed with Gallegos’ assumption.

“I know somebody who doesn’t speak English and they’re taking those classes because they don’t understand English and it’s easier for them,” Lucas said.

Murden believes at the heart and bottom of the issue are students not “binding to what they need to do.”

“It’s like, ‘Just do it because I just want my damn degree and I want to go home and I want to get a job,’” Murden said. “That’s really not why I became a professor.”

English Department Chair William Harris mentioned issues that Dual Enrollment has brought upon UTB/TSC professors and students.



Teresa Murden, an associate professor in the English Department, says many students do not take advantage of the Learning Enrichment services.

“One of the things that kind of factors in now is that we have an awful lot of students who are taking the basics in high school, so you’re taking them in high school with your high school teacher,” Harris said. “It’s very difficult for us to either supervise or to inject ourselves into that and say, ‘Well, this is what we’re doing here.’”

Harris also said the word “freshman” usually implies students who just graduated from high school, but the classification includes Dual Enrollment students as early as eighth-graders and that a high school diploma is not required to become a UTB/TSC student.

“There are people on this campus now and there have been in the past [that] don’t have to have a high school diploma to enter this campus, but you do have to complete a battery of paperwork,” Harris said. “From a teacher’s point of view, [you] don’t know

a whole lot about the skill levels of those people initially.”

Diana Dominguez, director of English graduate studies, has taught at the high school level and believes the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, or TAKS, exam is teaching students and teachers from the Brownsville Independent School District to make passing that test the focus throughout the school year.

“The expectations also [are] about ‘Get ’em in, get ’em out, do what’s necessary, teach to the test,’” Dominguez said. “Part of the problem ... is this idea that it’s all about that final product. It’s not about the progress towards that final product.”

Although no more than three seconds of silence were heard in the symposium at any given time, it came to an end due to a lack of time. Cook said he hoped to continue the discussion in the future.



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN

Setting goals

Sophomore environmental sciences major Jose Luis Larrazolo (left), senior education major Kimberly Treviño and junior psychology major Beatrice Delgado write down what they want to accomplish this semester during the Academic Resolution 2010 event Jan. 22 in the Student Union veranda. A total of 20 students participated in the event sponsored by the Leadership and Mentorship Program.

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FOR ALL  
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The UTB/TSC Administration continues to raise tuition, maintain low wages for employees, and collect and spend millions in local property taxes from the poor residents of the TSC District (Cameron County). We pay high tuition, high property taxes, and we receive low wages working at UTB-TSC.

On Saturday, May 8, 2010, UTB/TSC will hold the TSC Board of Trustees election. Right now the board has stood by and not questioned tuition and fee hikes, higher property taxes, and lower wages and benefits for UTB and TSC workers! The board made empty promises to keep tuition low, provide a ‘living-wage,’ then did nothing when tuition was raised by UTB, not once, but many times! **NOW IS TIME TO ACT!**

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Politics

Continued from Page 6

sides, but I'll let the court decide that issue. But, that's a good example of probably through a series of meetings and communications [it] probably could have been resolved without the necessity of having to go to court. I think that's part of the problem, the district attorney is the elected law enforcement official, and as my understanding, he is also the elected district attorney for Cameron County. In the past, the District Attorney's Office did provide that type of advice. I think it could have been something that could have been easily addressed and probably resolved, but, unfortunately through the leadership of the county commission's court, this is what you ended up with, litigation instead of resolution."

**Name:** Rebecca Gomez

**Age:** 56

**Hometown:** Brownsville

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Texas-Pan American at Brownsville

**Family:** Divorced; 2 children

**Occupation:** Paralegal

**Party Affiliation:** Democrat

**Experience:** Community and political activist

**What are your accomplishments and how do you think they have prepared you for being a county judge?** "I've been a political activist since 1982. I started with the Bill Clinton campaign and I have remained a political activist as well as a community activist. I have always gotten involved in the community, for example the Sierra Blanca [nuclear waste storage facility] project [in southwestern Texas]

that was going to take place in 1988. I have gotten involved with the drainage ditch [issue in] Southmost. I'm very aware of things that have been left unaddressed for years and I am very aware of what needs to be done. I'm calling for a water emergency plan; this is a region that continues to get hit by droughts. I feel that I'm prepared to meet the challenges that face a county judge. I'm familiar with the drainage problems at our county, at our city. Our streets have been left unattended for years."

**What challenges face Cameron County, and how will you address them?** "A main concern to people is taxes--we pay taxes and we don't have proper paving. Seeing so much favoritism where the rich part of town is and total neglect [of] the poor communities has pushed me to this decision. Our local government doesn't speak out, does not make an attempt to get the federal government involved. There are ways to getting grants to our region and there are ways to promoting job growth, but we just don't have the voices there. I will bring it up to the public by putting it on the county agenda, by bringing it to the discussion, inviting the people. We need to open the doors and we need to let the community come and speak to us and tell us what their problems are so we can get to the bottom of decisions. Nobody is pointing out issues that we need to talk about and that's what I'm going to do. There is a lack of communication, people are not being heard [and] people are not being allowed to address the commission."

**What are your goals if elected?** "To listen to the people, open the door to the county to hear their concerns, try to find a way to find relief to the taxpayer, stop this auctioning off of houses at the courthouse and give people more time to pay their taxes. Work

to fix all those problems with the roads and the drainage. We obviously have a big problem with drainage."

**Do you support the West Parkway Project? Why or why not?** "No, I'm against it. I feel that as taxpayers, we pay for our roads already. I don't think the taxpayer should be burdened with any additional fees besides the taxes we pay already. These are the basic services that are [included in] our tax dollars. Why should the taxpayer be burdened with extra fees? I don't see how that can be possible without hurting the taxpayers."

**There is a decline in toll revenue from the county's international bridges. By how much? How important is that revenue to the county's budget, and how will you address the decline in revenue?** "There is a decline because of the crossing procedures; it's hard for people to come over here. It's just so hard for Americans that don't have a passport to travel to Mexico, so, really, I think both countries are hurting. It's hurting business. [Revenue] is important, but not to the extent that the county should depend upon it, because it's beyond the county's control what the federal government does--the operations of the federal government are affecting our region. I think that there has to be more communication with state and federal officials and local government."

**Are you in support of a second causeway for South Padre Island? Why or why not?** "Yes, I am. We need it. The traffic during Spring Break--there's times when we need a second causeway. I really do think we need it; I am in support of it. I just know that it was initiated or that the plans are on the table, but I really have not kept up with it."

**Should the district attorney's staff**

**represent the commissioners' court or should the court have the right to choose its own lawyers? Why or why not?** "I think [the] county commissioners' court should have their own lawyers advising them on the contracts coming before them and that the district attorney should do his job as a prosecutor and stop trying to tell the legal division for commissioners how to advise."

# Important Election Dates

**Primary Election**  
Jan. 1--First day to apply for ballot by mail  
Feb. 1--Last day to register to vote  
Feb. 16-26--Early voting  
Feb. 23--Last day to apply for ballot by mail  
March 2--Primary

**Primary Runoff Election**  
Feb. 12--First day to apply for ballot by mail  
March 15--Last day to register to vote  
April 5-9--Early voting  
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## Bringing glow-sticking to light



FRANCISCO ESPINOSA/COLLEGIAN  
Freshman Jesus Trejo practices glow-sticking Monday afternoon outside Cavalry Hall.

## C-SPAN bus tour



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN  
C-SPAN National Accounts Executive Matthew S. McGuire gives a presentation while on the C-SPAN Civics Bus, which was parked Friday outside the Student Union.

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Tandy Hall 213

**March 3, 10, 24 and 31 • 5–8 p.m.**  
Tandy Hall 213

The UTB/TSC Financial Aid Office will provide assistance to students completing the 2010–2011 Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

**Get help filing your 2009 IRS  
income tax return for FREE!**

**February 3, 10, 17 and 24 • noon to 8 p.m.**  
Tandy Hall 213

The United Way of Southern Cameron County and the Wal-Mart Foundation will provide all students free income tax preparation services using the Beehive Tax Tool Bus.

### COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

**February 21 • 2–4 p.m.**  
Tandy Hall lobby

The UTB/TSC Financial Aid Office will provide students information on 2010–2011 financial aid and scholarships, and assistance with financial aid applications.



# Clínica H1N1 llega a Cameron Park

Por Jacqueline Vasquez  
*Reportera*

Las líneas avanzaban veloz y tranquilamente mientras la gente se aproximaba para recibir la vacuna H1N1. Las vacunas inyectables y los vaporizadores nasales fueron gratuitos para el público.

Alberto Ibarra de 9 años y su hermano de 5 fueron traídos por su madre Verónica Ibarra. El estudiante de cuarto grado de la escuela primaria Gallegos estuvo feliz de que la vacuna fuera un vaporizador nasal.

“Estuve un poquito asustado, pero no dolió”, dijo Alberto con una sonrisa. Él dijo que su hermano menor lloró y se asustó porque creyó que la vacuna nasal le dolería como una inyección.

La clínica de vacunación H1N1 fue conducida el martes en el Centro Cultural de Cameron Park, ubicado en 2100 Gregory Ave. La clínica fue coordinada por los departamentos de Salud y Servicios Humanos, y Parques y Recreación del Condado de Cameron.

“Estamos alentando a las personas a recibir la vacuna H1N1”, dijo Fidel Calvillo, director del Programa de Respuesta a la Salud Pública, en una nota de prensa. “Como ahora la vacuna H1N1 está disponible a todas las poblaciones, estamos haciendo un esfuerzo por llegar a los residentes en un escenario clínico no tradicional”.

Calvillo dijo que el departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos recibió vacunas H1N1 adicionales y pudo organizar la clínica de vacunación en la colonia Cameron Park. Desde el 6 de octubre del 2009 han recibido más de 32,000 vacunas H1N1.

Dijo que los Centros para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades han puesto la vacuna a disposición de todos. Anteriormente, sólo grupos específicos podían recibir la vacuna debido al escaso número de dosis que había entonces.

Solamente personas saludables entre 2 y 49 años pudieron recibir la vacuna vía vaporizador nasal.



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN

Alejandro Pérez recibe la vacuna nasal N1H1 una Clínica de Vacunación H1N1 realizada el martes en el Centro Cultural de Cameron Park.

Aquellos con asma, condiciones crónicas, defensas debilitadas y mujeres embarazadas tuvieron que ser inyectados con la vacuna.

Calvillo explicó que la vacuna por vaporizador nasal es un “virus vivo” que no enferma a nadie con el virus H1N1, pero la gente necesita gozar de buena salud para que su sistema inmunológico sea capaz de lidiar con él.

“Si tomas la [vacuna] nasal, consigues inmunidad en los próximos días, a diferencia de la inyección; toma alrededor de dos semanas después conseguir recién la inmunidad”, dijo en una entrevista con *El Collegian* durante la clínica.

La clínica estuvo abierta de 4 a 7 p.m. y en su primera hora administró la vacuna a 120 hombres, mujeres y niños. Calvillo dijo que su departamento no contaba con un número previsto de gente, pero que 3,000 vacunas estuvieron disponibles. Un total de 284 personas fueron vacunadas ese día.

Una residente de Cameron Park fue vacunada junto a sus cinco hijos. Ella dijo que la vacuna no dolió y que vino porque para ella era importante tener a sus niños vacunados.

“Es importante para la salud de los niños”, dijo la mujer.

Calvillo dijo que su departamento ha estado trabajando con distritos escolares con el propósito de abrir clínicas de vacunación H1N1 en diferentes escuelas y que continuará haciéndolo mientras los distritos escolares se lo permitan.

Las clínicas de vacunación H1N1 realizadas en las escuelas son gratuitas y están abiertas al público.

El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos del Condado de Cameron provee vacunas H1N1 inyectables sin costo en sus cuatro clínicas en Brownsville, Harlingen, San Benito y Port Isabel. Para mayor información, llame al departamento al 247-3685.

## Estudiante de hoy



LUCIANA MORALES/COLLEGIAN

**Nombre:** Alma Linda Garza  
**Edad:** 21  
**Ciudad Natal:** Cadereyta Jiménez, Nuevo León, México  
**Promedio:** 3.06  
**Especialidad:** Biología  
**Clasificación:** Estudiante de último año  
**Fecha de graduación:** Mayo 2011  
**Pasatiempos:** “Me encanta leer y estar con mis amigos”.  
**Actividades extracurriculares:** “Soy [residente supervisora] y me encargo del tercer edificio [de la residencia estudiantil *The Village at Fort Brown*], donde están las mujeres. Anteriormente fui supervisora en el Centro de Recreación y Ejercicio”.  
**¿Cuál sería tu trabajo ideal?** “Siempre he querido ser

enfermera y aunque nunca he volado me gustaría ser una enfermera de vuelo”.

**¿Cuáles son tus metas?** “Vivir feliz y tener un trabajo que me encante. Quiero ser lo que mis papás no pudieron ser”.

**¿Cómo te ves dentro de 10 años?** “Ojalá que con la carrera que escogí, con una familia y viajando porque siempre me ha gustado viajar. Quiero andar por todo el mundo”.

**¿Qué te gusta de la universidad?** “Me gusta mucho el trabajo que tengo porque he conocido a mucha gente. Hay mucha diversidad aquí y he podido conocer a estudiantes que vienen de todo el mundo”.

**¿Qué les aconsejarías a los estudiantes de nuevo ingreso?** “Que no sean tímidos para platicar y hacer preguntas a sus compañeros de clase”.

**¿Qué consejo les darías a los estudiantes para estudiar antes de un examen?** “Que no se estresen, calmados van a aprender más”.

**Anécdota:** “En mi primer día de clases puse todos mis libros en mi mochila y quedó pesadísima. La gente se quedaba mirándome y a mí me dolía la espalda. En la primera clase el profesor dijo que sacáramos una libreta solamente—ahí aprendí que cuando eres estudiante de primer año no sabes qué esperar en tu primera clase. Cuando veo a los chicos que andan con todos sus libros me acuerdo de eso”.

--Recopilado por Luciana Morales

## Creando conciencia sobre Haití en el campus

Por Julianna Sosa  
*Editora de El Collegian*

Decenas de miles de vidas han sido devastadas por el terremoto de magnitud 7.0 que sacudió Haití el 12 de enero. El desastre natural colocó a Haití en el centro de atención internacional e incentivó la ayuda humanitaria mundial. Y tú, ¿cómo puedes involucrarte?

Deena Galván, presidenta de la organización estudiantil Mentes Activas, dijo que están tomando la iniciativa en promover conciencia de la devastación en Haití.

“Lo que Haití necesita ahora es dinero,” dijo Galván a *El Collegian*. “Estamos animando a los estudiantes a enviar un mensaje de texto al 90999 para donar \$10 a los esfuerzos de la Cruz Roja por socorrer Haití”.

Mentes Activas promueve una discusión abierta y bien informada sobre salud mental y trabaja por crear una vida mejor para aquellos que sufren, según su página en *Facebook*.

“Mandar ese mensaje de texto es muy fácil”, dijo Galván. “Todos tienen un teléfono celular, todos pueden enviar mensajes de texto. La sensación de ayudar a alguien es más importante que esos \$10”.

Victoria Salazar, una asociada de preparación y respuesta de la Sección de Texas del Sur de la

Cruz Roja Americana, dijo que la Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja se encarga de los esfuerzos por auxiliar Haití.

“Pueden donar con ellos o pueden enviarlo aquí, porque mucha gente ha estado viniendo”, dijo Salazar. “Esto ha sido designado para Haití, así que escribimos una nota en el cheque”.

La sección local está ubicada en 6914 W. Expy. 83 en Harlingen y sirve a los condados de Cameron, Willacy, Hidalgo y Starr.

Salazar afirma haber visto una gran respuesta de la gente que quiere convertirse en voluntarios de la organización, viajar a Haití y asistir a los necesitados pero agregó que los postulantes deben atravesar un largo proceso. La solicitud requiere un código de conducta, una declaración personal de entendimiento, una constancia de estado de salud y una revisión de antecedentes. En caso de ser aceptados, deberán pasar por un entrenamiento.

Las personas interesadas en ser voluntarias de la sección local pueden descargar la solicitud en línea en <http://www.southtexasredcross.org/>.

De acuerdo con su página Web, actualmente, la Cruz Roja Americana no está aceptando voluntarios para viajar a Haití.

## Derribando libra por libra



MICHAEL PEÑA/COLLEGIAN

Villarreal Paving & Demolition continúa su trabajo el martes en donde anteriormente estaba el *Scorpion Body Shop*, ubicado junto a la residencia estudiantil *The Village at Fort Brown*.



# First series ends in close contest

By Chris Scott  
*Sports Editor*

Before this past weekend’s traditional UTB/TSC Alumni game (results unavailable at press time), the Scorpions started their season with a four-game series against the Wayland Baptist University Pioneers.

On a hot opening weekend, perfect for baseball, the Scorpions were more of a spark waiting to ignite rather than a fully fledged fire. While there is a lot of promise in the UTB/TSC team, it is obvious that there are still a few tweaks and kinks to iron out before it will really start to ignite.

The first game of the Jan. 23 and 24 series, showed just what the Scorpions can do and why there is so much expectation and hype surrounding this year’s squad. The Scorpions won 4-1 with runs from Walter Blume III, Matt Ginn, Nick Loftus and Gilberto Puente. Head Coach Bryan Aughney was pleased with his team and happy to see such a healthy crowd on Opening Day.

“Opening Day is always great here, and there weren’t many empty seats,” Aughney said. “It was exciting for our guys, and they love it when we have good crowds here.”

The second game of the series, on the same day, was a much cagier affair with the pitching teams on each side coming out on top. Wayland’s Todd Weldon only allowed the Scorpions two hits in six innings, while the Scorpion’s Danny Gidora had seven strikeouts.

“What you saw in Game 2 was two of the top arms in Texas, if not all the NAIA baseball,” Aughney said.

Center Jorge Camorlinga tripled and scored the only run for the Scorpions, but two runs in the fourth and sixth innings, gave the Pioneers the win.

Game 3 started Jan. 24 with the Scorpions taking an early lead. However, Wayland soon raised their game to hit the Scorpions for six in the third and then scored another three runs in the fifth without reply, to go up 9-1. But the Scorpions battled back, with a rousing display of team belief, scoring seven runs in the sixth to reduce the difference to 9-8 and give themselves a chance going into the final inning. Unfortunately for the Scorpions, even with an incredible comeback when they looked all but dead, the Pioneers hung on to see the game out and go 2-1 up in the series.

Down 10-7 in the final inning of Game 4 and the series, the Scorpions now needed a big performance from their pitching team to give themselves any chance of salvaging the game and a chance at drawing the series, and the pitching team duly delivered. Jesus Mendoza took the mound for the final inning and did exactly what was required of him, by not giving up a single Pioneer run. This gave the Scorpions a chance, but unfortunately they found the Wayland pitcher, Aaron Pate, in an uncharitable mood and the score remained 10-7 for the Pioneers, who earned a 3-1 series win.

While Aughney was obviously disappointed with the final result, he was positive that the Scorpions were on the right track for a successful season.

“I’m still very excited about our group and we’ve got to stay hungry and we have a lot of work to do,” he said. “[Wayland Baptist’s players] don’t make mistakes and they don’t beat themselves. You have to play clean baseball to beat these guys, but from the series as whole, we’re not that far away from being 2-2 right now.”

Catcher Gilberto Puente was keen to stress that there is still a long way to go until the Scorpions reach their potential, but is also confident that the Scorpions are making great strides.

“I think we’ll be a lot better than last year,” Puente said. “[Wayland Baptist] is not that much better than us. This game was huge for us but just a few errors and bad decisions kept us from winning a few games. It’s definitely a learning experience and we’ll see them again at the national tournament. It’s a big improvement from last year. We came back several times, and proved we’re improving on last year. Last year we were one run away from the national tournament, and this year I think we will definitely be at that tournament.”

For more in-depth UTB/TSC match reports, visit The Collegian Online every week at [www.utbcollegian.com](http://www.utbcollegian.com).



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN PHOTOS

Scorpion pitcher Julian Moya takes the mound against Wayland Baptist University Jan. 23 at Scorpion Field.



Scorpion Juan Muñoz is shown at the plate during the Jan. 23 Opening Day game against Wayland Baptist University at Scorpion Field.

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## NEXT HOME SERIES

The Scorpions’ next home series is against the University of Houston-Victoria. Two games are scheduled Saturday, beginning at 4 p.m., and two games are scheduled Sunday, beginning at 1 p.m. All games will be held at Scorpion Field.

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# A season in review--volleyball

By Chris Scott  
*Sports Editor*

What a year, what a season, what a team. After a season of complete mediocrity in 2008, women’s volleyball put this school, and, more importantly, itself, back on the map with a bang in 2009. The Scorpions ended the season with the Red River Athletic Conference Championship, going undefeated against all RRAC opponents in the process, and finished tied for fifth in the nation overall; it was certainly a season that will live fondly in the memory.



COLLEGIAN FILE PHOTO

Around this time last year, a new coach was appointed with the challenge of taking the UTB/TSC Women’s Volleyball Team back where it belonged—at the very pinnacle of the NAIA volleyball scene. The man trusted with such a huge task was Todd Lowery, a two-time national championship winner with his previous school National American University in Rapid City, S.D. It was a challenge that excited Lowery.

“The big thing for me when I looked at coming here [was] I saw the opportunity to build what we had at my former school and maybe do a little bit better,” Lowery said. “I think the infrastructure is here to have a winning program year after year.”

A new man at the helm saw a wholesale of changes in the Scorpion roster. It seemed almost as if there had been a revolving door installed at Garza gym over the summer with so many players coming and going.

“We brought one girl in from my former school, but the rest were recruits that we went out and got,” Lowery said. “[The Scorpions] were kind of down the year before, so our expectation was to get this team back going in

the right direction, [and] start winning again. Of course, it takes time to get to what we had at my former school. But I think we took of steps in the right direction, building that history here.”

The Scorpions started the season like a house on fire, demolishing everyone in their path until they came across eventual national championship runner-up Georgetown University.

“[The defeat to Georgetown] was great actually,” Lowery said. “That helped us all season long. Had we not lost that game and then gone into conference tournament and dominated the way we did, we could have easily not been

the team that we were at the end of the year. But all year long, that loss kind of stuck in the back of everybody’s heads and we knew we had to keep getting better because we were going to face teams like Georgetown in that tournament.”

After falling to Georgetown, the Scorpions then embarked on a remarkable 28-game winning streak that stretched all the way to the national championships, including a first-ever victory over the University of Texas-Pan American and also a Red River Athletic Conference win to boot.

“I felt that we had a big chance to win conference right away in our first year and that was really the goal,” Lowery said. “Winning the conference was one of our goals when we set out at the start of the season, so to do that was great, along with the other programs. It was a great fall for soccer and volleyball, and to have all our sports win the conference was just a huge accomplishment for our school.”

Next up for the Scorpions was The National Championship tournament. With such an impressive record in the regular season and RRAC tournament, you would assume all

thoughts would be on bringing home the national title, but Lowery made sure the team kept its feet grounded, concentrating on one game at a time, which worked well in the pool play part of the competition.

“Going into nationals, our first goal was to get out of pool play,” he said. “We felt like we needed to get out of pool play and won our first couple of games and then played a very good Concordia [University team], who just got the better of us. Our girls bounced back from that loss really well against the College of Idaho and beat a very good Idaho team, which was probably the best match we played all season. We were down, I think down four points at one point, but [the team] battled all the way back to take that game and showed just huge character from our program, not just from our team from last year, but that will carry through into this year.”

After qualifying from their group, the next round of the competition drew the Scorpions against reigning national champions Fresno Pacific University.

“Going into the tournament we knew that there was a real possibility, via the No. 9 seed, we were going to meet [Fresno] in the quarterfinals,” Lowery said. “There was nothing to hang our heads about, though; we lost to a great team and we competed with them. I think our scores were closer than [Fresno’s scores] were in the final against Georgetown. We were right there with them, 25-23; if the ball runs different ways here and there, that match could have been really interesting.”

Even though the Scorpions went out of the competition, Lowery felt there was a lot to look back on with a lot of pride.

“A loss is always hard to swallow,” he said, “but in hindsight we went toe-to-toe with probably the best team in the country. That was [Fresno’s] third championship in the last three years and I was very, very happy [with] the way our girls competed against them.

we will be better prepared going into the national tournament by playing a tougher schedule,” he said. “Our schedule looks like we’re going to have six or seven matches against top 10 teams, which will better prepare us for the national tournament.”

As far as recruiting is concerned, the Scorpions are ahead of the game.

“We have four or five kids to replace, some very talented kids to replace,” Lowery said. “In regards to transfer students, but in general terms we’re way ahead of where we were last year, in February, when I first came here. We have a good core group of girls coming back and I feel that the kids that we’re talking to, we’re already close to sealing the deal. I already have one commitment from a [NCAA] D1 transfer, a 6-foot-5 girl from Germany. We’re going to continue to get bigger and more physical this year than we were across the board. We’re excited about the recruiting class.”

A misconception about fall sports is that there is no work to be done in the spring semester and that January to May serves as just an extended Spring Break; however, this is not so where volleyball is concerned.

“We’re going to get a good full spring in with those eight to 10 kids who are still here and we’re really excited and looking forward to next season,” Lowery said. “Spring is really our chance to improve the individual skills of the players. We get so busy with traveling and schoolwork during the season that we’re just focused on the team [in the fall]. In the spring we believe we can improve the individual ability of our players and then when fall comes back around, put all the individual skill back together as the team.”

Lowery was also keen to point out that everything the team has accomplished this year is not only down to him but also his support staff especially his assistant coach, Roberta Santos.

“[Santos] has been wonderful,” he said. “When I first took this job, I had three or four



COLLEGIAN FILE PHOTO

Basically, where Fresno Pacific is right now is where we want to be in four or five years. That team that walks into the gym and everyone is scared to play. I didn’t feel our girls were scared to play against them, like a lot of a lot of teams we watched go up against Fresno. A lot of the teams were intimidated, but our girls weren’t intimidated and I think that speaks volumes about where this program is going to go.”

Asked to reflect on the season gone by, there seems to be a great contentment about Lowery.

“I think we took a lot of steps in the right direction,” he said. “I think we exceeded those expectations even we had. We knew we were going to build up a good program, but to end up where we did and with the record we did, 34-3 in the first year, is just great and I think the future here is everything I thought it could be and that was the big thing I looked at when coming here. Our main goal was to win conference. To do it the way we did and to perform the way we did at the national tournament was just bonuses.”

Lowery is looking toward next season with a great sense of anticipation and excitement.

“We are scheduling a lot harder, so we may not have the same record as we had this year, but

people who were interested in coming here as my assistant. I actually recruited her to play for me at one point, but she ended up going to Florida [Gulf Coast University] and when we started talking about the possibility of her coming here, we seemed to have a good chemistry and got along really well. But once she got here on campus, she was more than I ever could have expected when I was trying to bring her here. She’s just done wonders training our setters and in everything she’s done for our program.”

Asked what UTB/TSC fans can expect from their volleyball team next season, the coach was in no doubt.

“Hopefully, just more of the same,” Lowery said. “There is going to be different faces, but we’re planning the same type of high-powered offense—exciting to watch. That’s the way we’re recruiting, a kind of no-holds-barred team. That’s what we want to do here, win national titles.”

It seems that the sky is the limit for this volleyball program and one thing is for sure, under the leadership of Todd Lowery, the future looks very bright indeed.



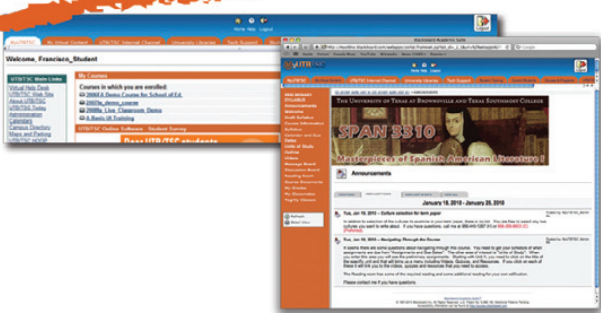
COURTESY PHOTO

The 2009 RRAC Champions. Seated (from left) Arlene Ferreira, Anayeli Treviño, Daianarah Bracero, Gabriela Maraboto and Rafaela Domelas. Standing (from left) Talita Milasauskas, Erica Chimak, Miriele Gobbo, Judith Boel, Valquiria Caboclo, Luara Rosa, Belinda Carreon, Jacques Touchet, Assistant Coach Roberta Santos and Head Coach Todd Lowery.



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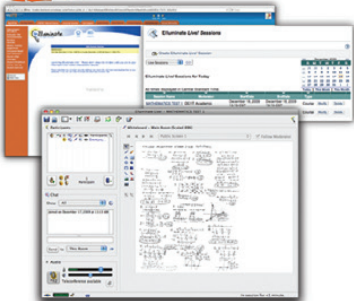
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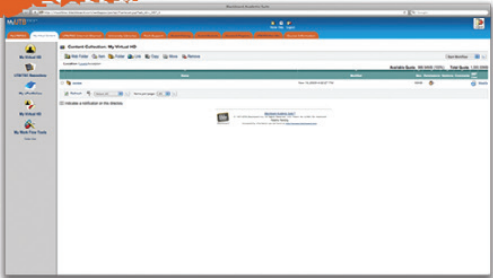
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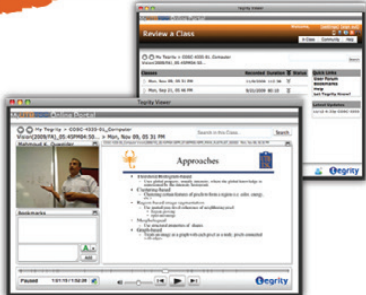
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